

## Winter blast shuts down city



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HALIFAX • WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2009

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## Bale launches verbal tirade on set



## Chronicle-Herald lays off 23 staff

**NEWSPAPER** The Chronicle-Herald is laying off a quarter of its editorial staff.

Yesterday afternoon, 23 newsroom employees were given what the company called "redundancy notices." That triggers a 45-day period in which other employees could choose to take buyout packages.

There are about 100 people in the newsroom. The paper's owners, the Dennis family, had previously announced they wanted to cut more than \$1 million in expenses, citing a decline in advertising.

Neither management nor union representatives returned phone calls by press time. **METRO HALIFAX**

## Metro Drive pg 11

## Winging it with flying vehicles

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## Paris can be magical

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## Habs double up Penguins

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## Nickelback get Juno nods



Halifax Rainmen coach Rick Lewis, seen here during training camp in December, was fired yesterday. Assistant coach Shannon Hanson is taking over as interim coach until a replacement is found.

# Blame rains down

## Rainmen fire head coach after 6-5 start

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**The Halifax Rainmen shook things up yesterday, firing head coach Rick Lewis in a bid to make the playoffs.**

Lewis had guided the Rainmen to a 6-5 record this season, third in the Premier Basketball League's Atlantic Conference. But placing first in the conference is the only way to guarantee a playoff spot, and there are only nine games remaining.

Owner Andre Levingston said the team has underperformed.

"I'm not getting results and something has to be done about it," he said. "Our basketball team is too

**"I'm not getting results and something has to be done about it. Our basketball team is too talented to be 6-5."**

Owner Andre Levingston

talented to be 6-5."

Assistant coach Shannon Hansen will take over Lewis's duties on an interim basis, but Levingston said he hopes to have a permanent replacement named by tomorrow.

Lewis generated plenty of public controversy after the Rainmen started the season 3-0.

He benched Eric Crookshank for half a game on Jan. 11, a move that led to the star forward's season-long suspension.

He also benched all-purpose forward Cordell Jean-

ty for the entire game on Sunday.

Crookshank and released guard SirValiant Brown both publicly criticized Lewis's coaching tactics, and the Rainmen followed their perfect start with five losses in eight games.

Lewis's decision to bench Crookshank and Jeanty did not appear to factor into his firing, as Levingston said, "Coaches don't bench players ... Players bench players."

Levingston said he wants to see more movement on

offence, more defensive tenacity, and smarter in-game adjustments. But his biggest beef with Lewis was game preparation.

"I didn't feel this team was prepared enough to go to war in big games," Levingston said. "That falls on coaching."

Levingston said the players "embraced" the move.

"They wanted to hear another voice, for someone to prepare them to contend for a championship," he said.

Levingston ruled out taking over Lewis's duties himself, saying he "couldn't mix" ownership and coaching.

The Rainmen also announced late yesterday they had released little-used guard Rodney Mayes.

## Crookshank to return to Rainmen?

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**BENCHED** The door appears to have cracked open for the possible return of banished Halifax Rainmen star Eric Crookshank.

In the aftermath of the firing of head coach Rick Lewis, Rainmen owner Andre Levingston significantly softened his stance on Crookshank's season-long suspension.

"I never say never," Levingston said, adding that his

position on Crookshank has "absolutely" changed.

Crookshank, a 6-8 fan favourite who can score 20 points per game and dominate the boards, was banned with pay

on Jan. 14 for "conduct detrimental to the team." He agreed to stay in Halifax and speak to youth about accountability.

Levingston said the only way Crookshank can be reinstated is for him to "keep doing what he's doing" in the community.

"If there was an opportunity, remotely, for him to come back this year, it's because I feel he has learned his lesson," he said.

Levingston made a point of saying Crookshank's suspension was his decision, not Lewis's, and that a reinstatement would be his decision, not the new head coach's.

## Sunday?

- When asked if Eric Crookshank would be in the lineup for Sunday's home game against the Vermont Frost Heaves, Andre Levingston said "I really don't know the answer to that."

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\$209	\$239	\$249	\$287	\$298	\$325	\$328	\$398

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LONDON HEATHROW FEB. 4, 2009–APRIL 1, 2009 SEPT. 25, 2009–OCT. 31, 2009	FRANKFURT <sup>1</sup> MUNICH <sup>1</sup> FEB. 4, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	PARIS FEB. 4, 2009–MAY 14, 2009	ROME FEB. 4, 2009–MARCH 31, 2009	SANTIAGO FEB. 4, 2009–JUNE 14, 2009	BEIJING/SHANGHAI HONG KONG FEB. 4, 2009–MAY 24, 2009 SEPT. 4, 2009–NOV. 30, 2009	SEOUL FEB. 4, 2009–MAY 24, 2009 SEPT. 15, 2009–OCT. 31, 2009	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA APRIL 1, 2009–JUNE 8, 2009
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**Bereavement workshops and retreats for kids and teens**

The IWK is holding grief and bereavement workshops for kids aged six to 12 on Wednesdays starting March 25. It's also holding a bereavement retreat for teens on Feb. 27 and 28. For more information, call 470-8942.

METRO HALIFAX

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## Local

**Fire concerns during storms**

Candles may be romantic, but they're also a fire hazard. The Halifax Regional Fire Service says fires caused by candles have tripled in recent years, and it's worried about residents leaving candles unattended during power outages caused by winter storms. Try battery-powered lighting, to be safe, and make sure your smoke alarms have charged batteries in them.

METRO HALIFAX

**Winter blast shuts down most of city**

PAUL MCLEOD

paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

**A vengeful God punished Halifax yesterday with more snow, ice pellets and freezing rain.**

In response, Halifax decided to collectively call it a day. Most offices, libraries, law courts and even coffee shops had shut down by mid-afternoon. That left many Haligonians searching for shelter.

"We must be some kind of refuge for people. They don't want to stay home and just sit around at the house. They don't have anywhere else to go," said Alex Wilson, an employee at Steve-O-Reno's coffee shop, which saw brisk business despite the weather.

"You never know if it's going to be rain or snow. Once in a while, we get these big heapings of snow. You've just got to roll with the punches."

Those hoping to flee from the melee of precipitation were faced with defeat. Nearly all flights out of Halifax were cancelled. Airport spokesman Peter Spurway said crews were working hard to clear the



A cyclist pedals through the snow yesterday as he leaves downtown during the afternoon commute.

runways for today, but you'll have to keep your fingers crossed.

"We'll do everything we

can do. But you do reach a certain point where safety issues take over," he said.

On the bright side, most

people had the sense to stay off of the perilous roads. Police responded to "a handful" of accidents,

according to Halifax Regional Police Const. Jeff Carr. But none of them were serious.

**Atheists to fight for ad**

JON TATTRIE

for Metro Halifax



A group hoping to get the atheist bus rolling in Halifax says it will fight on, despite having its ad rejected by Metro Transit.

Lori Patterson, spokeswoman for Metro Transit, said the company doesn't run ads about politics or religion. "Those two topics are always controversial and people have very strong opinions about them."

She said ads must meet "community standards."

"We have to consider our passengers and our employees and their safety," Patterson said. She cited the policy that ads must not be considered discriminatory or objectionable to any race, creed, or moral standard.

Derek Rodgers, a Halifax spokesman for Atheistbus.ca, said the proposed ad is not objectionable.

"Metro Transit needs to understand the serious-

**"We're really eager to sit down and discuss this face to face with Metro Transit."**

Derek Rodgers, area spokesman for Atheistbus.ca

ness of the message they're sending by rejecting an ad as benign as ours," he said yesterday. "We're very concerned about our right to free speech. I think a lot of Haligonians are expressing similar concerns, so we're really eager to sit down and discuss this face to face with Metro Transit."

The Atheist Bus campaign, organized by the Freethought Association of Canada, draws its inspiration from the British campaign. The text of the ad would read: "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life."

**Transit incentive on hold; report suggests more paid parking**

JON TATTRIE

for Metro Halifax



HRM council yesterday looked at ways to cut the flow of cars into downtown Halifax. But plans to extend a program where companies discount bus passes for their employees remains stuck in neutral.

The Eco-Pass, or E-Pass, has been a pilot program since 2007. Employees at participating companies get 10 or 15 per cent off the price of a bus pass, with the companies and Metro Transit splitting the cost of the discount.

But Metro Transit isn't ready to offer it to everybody.

"We have a number of other priorities," Metro Transit spokeswoman Lori Patterson said yesterday. "The pilot program has met with some success. It's certainly a good idea, but the problem



Traffic moves slowly yesterday along Barrington Street.

is capacity issues on the bus. Before we can expand our service any more, we have to build a new garage."

Jen Powley of the Ecology Action Centre finds the delay frustrating. She co-ordinates the E-Pass from the centre, and gets at least a call

a week from employers hoping to join up, only to have to turn them away.

"It's frustrating when there are people who want this service and you have to (turn them away)," she said.

Powley said the group has been told the program will expand by 2010, but Metro Transit wouldn't confirm that.

A report on HRM's parking strategy submitted to council yesterday found 78 per cent of Halifax commuters travel by car and in 68 per cent of the cars there is no one but the driver. The study identified "free" parking as a big factor. When company lots are considered, 40 per cent of parking is free to the downtown user. The study found 29 per cent of drivers would hop on the bus if they had to pay to park and recommended the city use its parking strategy to discourage lone commuters.

**Former Herald site will be new WTCC**

JON TATTRIE

for Metro Halifax



**DEVELOPMENT** It's official: Halifax's new world trade and convention centre is set to be built on the site of the former Halifax Herald building.

Yesterday, the province confirmed rumours that Rank Group, which proposes using its Argyle Street property, beat out the Hardman Group, which wanted to redevelop the Cogswell Interchange.

Premier Rodney MacDonald said the new centre would mean big money for Halifax: "It will be very beneficial to the province as a whole, and that's not even taking into account the economic spinoff from construction."

He said there was a ceiling as to how much the taxpayers will contribute, but wouldn't put a dollar figure on it. Mayor Peter Kelly likewise supported the decision, but the Hardman Group said it was a missed opportunity.

"The Cogswell proposal for a new World Trade and Convention Centre would have been the better option," said vice-president Colin Whitcomb. "The Cogswell Interchange ties up 16.5 acres of public lands and a new centre was the impetus needed to remove the interchange and reclaim the lands."

The new convention centre will be located in downtown Halifax, with 150,000 square feet of meeting space. The Rank Group will now submit a detailed proposal and cost estimate.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

**Video** Calgary Zoo admits human error likely led to deaths of 41 stingrays at

metronews.ca

/canada

**Video** Ignatieff blasts Harper over Newfoundland budget decision at

metronews.ca

/canada





Are you a seatbelt scofflaw? If so, this isn't your month: Halifax Regional Police are targeting seatbelt infractions during traffic stops in February. A ticket will cost you \$164.50. Last month, the force wrote 1,480 tickets when police focused on crosswalks and intersections. **METRO HALIFAX**

# Kiss to rock the Common

Thirty-two years after playing the Forum, band is returning to city

JON TATTRIE  
for Metro Halifax

**Dust off your platform shoes and get out your face paint: Kiss is coming to Halifax.**

"It'll be a big, big show by a band that's been putting it together longer and better than almost anyone in the field," said Steve Kotic, a Halifax Kiss fan since 1976. "You still can't top Kiss live."

It was announced yesterday that the glam rockers will play the Halifax Common on July 18, a mere 32 years after their last show at the Forum.

Harold MacKay of Power Promotional Events said he's been chasing the band for two years. They finally inked the deal after Kiss representatives were impressed at the Keith Urban concert last year.

"Kiss/Halifax Rocks 2009 will be the biggest event ever held at the Halifax Common," MacKay said.

Four yet-to-be named bands will open for the band that loves to rock 'n' roll all night. Promoters are also plotting a Guitar



Halifax promoter Harold MacKay officially announces the long-rumoured Kiss concert yesterday on the Halifax Common at a news conference. The concert will take place July 18 with four yet-to-be named opening bands. Tickets go on sale Friday.

Hero contest, with the winner taking to the main stage in the afternoon of

the big show. July 18 is Tall Ships weekend, so the city looks to be jam-packed.

The 40,000 tickets start at \$89 and go on sale Friday via Ticketatlantic.com,

the Atlantic Superstore, the Metro Centre box office, or 451-1221.

## Storms cut into budget

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

Yesterday's massive storm will push Halifax closer to running out of snow-removal money.

Mayor Peter Kelly estimates a storm of this magnitude will cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million to clear the snow and ice. Before yesterday, a series of storms had already cost the city \$11.4 million this winter.

That will put Halifax in a tight spot to get through the next two months. The city has a snow-removal budget of \$16.5 million, plus \$2.5 million more in reserve.

"If it stays on par with last year, we might be over budget by a million or so," said Kelly. "If the snow stops and slows down for a bit we might just make it through. If there are more extraordinary storms then we'll have to respond."

HRM is actually in a better spot financially this year than it was at the same time last year. But last year it ended up going \$4 million over budget.

Kelly said if that happens again this year, the city will have to cut from other sectors to stay out of deficit.

## Federal budget won't stimulate economy: Experts

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The budget designed to drive us out of recession likely isn't enough, but it's not all bad, according to a panel of experts speaking

yesterday in Halifax.

Four economic experts at an Atlantic Provinces Economic Council (APEC) gathering gave the recent federal budget and its stimulus plan a C+ to B- rating in overall effectiveness.

Lars Osberg, chair of the

economics department at Dalhousie University, compared the Conservative party's stimulus reversal to a student failing and then writing a makeup test.

"Often, those makeup exams are improved, but they're not that much im-

proved. You've still got the same student writing it," he said.

The panellists expressed doubt that there was enough stimulus money in the budget to combat the recession.

Other critiques ranged

from the budget failing to address Atlantic Canada's specific demands to not investing enough in converting to green energy.

But Osberg also emphasized the opportunities to fix items that should have been fixed long ago. Alongside environmental issues, he also mentioned investing in deferred maintenance that had been put off.

APEC president Elizabeth Beale said she would have liked to see more emphasis on EI reform and cash transfers to individuals. She said many Nova Scotians are falling through the cracks, such as people who flew out West for work and are now losing their jobs.

She expressed doubt the stimulus package would be able to help those people.

"There's a recognition by the federal government that it needs to spend in the current recession," she said.

"There's big questions about whether the overall pool of money is going to be adequate to offer that stimulus to pull us out. And there's big questions about the way it's being delivered."



Dalhousie Prof. Lars Osberg gestures yesterday as he answers a question at the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council luncheon at the Westin Nova Scotian. Panellists expressed doubt that there was enough money in the federal budget to combat the recession.

### News in brief

**ARREST** Police arrested a man who pulled a knife on a homeowner shovelling his driveway yesterday at Albro Lake and Wyse Road. The victim then confronted the suspect. No one was hurt in the incident. The suspect was arrested in the area.

**CRASH** A driver and passenger were taken to hospital yesterday at 12:40 p.m. after a two-car accident at the corner of Sussex Street and Old Sambro Road. Their injuries weren't life-threatening.

**ACTIVITY** The city is trying to encourage girls to get more physically active. On Friday, it will announce a list of activities available to young women as part of Girls Soar Physical Activity Week, being held Feb. 16 to 20.

**EMERGENCY** A CRTC decision means cellphone users will get better 911 emergency service. Wireless providers have until Feb. 1, 2010, to put GPS technology in place so emergency responders can determine a cellphone caller's location.

**METRO HALIFAX**



**Melnik to pay \$1M fine**

Biovail founder Eugene Melnyk has agreed to pay a \$1,000,001 fine in connection with a fraudulent accounting charge in the U.S. **REUTERS**

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# Canada

## Tory budget passes

Liberals support bill, but N.L. MPs break ranks

**Prime Minister Stephen Harper's prescription for lifting Canada out of recession — a \$40-billion stimulus package — has passed a key political test, prolonging the life of his minority government and sending federal coffers deep into deficit.**

The budget passed last night in a 211-91 vote, thanks to the grudging support of the Liberals who backed the Conservatives against the opposition of New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff was reluctant to force an election in the face of economic downturn. Instead, he has warned that the Conservatives are on "probation" and is demanding regular progress reports on the status of the stimulus package as a condition of his continuing support.

### Double standard?

• Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe last night accused Michael Ignatieff of a "double standard," noting

that Quebec has voiced similar complaints about federal funding cuts yet no Quebec Liberal opposed the budget.

But six Liberal MPs from Newfoundland and Labrador broke ranks with their party and opposed the budget, charging that it short-changes their province by more than \$1 billion.

Their mini-revolt posed the first test to Ignatieff's fledgling leadership. However, before the vote, Ignatieff struck a compromise, saying he would permit the MPs a "one-time" show of protest after four of them vowed to oppose it anyway.

"I decided to permit them in the budget vote ... a one-time vote of protest to signal their displeasure and

my displeasure at these unilateral actions which in my view weaken our federation," Ignatieff said, ruling out disciplinary measures against the MPs.

"This is not about Michael Ignatieff and it's not about the Liberal caucus," he said when asked what his decision reveals about his leadership style.

Ignatieff said he twice asked Harper to "pause" the changes to provincial funding to give time to resolve Newfoundland's complaints.

"He said no," Ignatieff said. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

## MP Bill Casey outraged by embezzlement allegations

**POLITICS** Bill Casey wants his name cleared after the RCMP investigated accusations of embezzlement and theft made by the Conservative Party during the last federal election campaign.

The Independent MP for Cumberland Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley rose in the House of Commons yesterday and produced an RCMP briefing note pertaining to the accusation of embezzlement and theft of \$30,000 from the local riding association. Inside the House he called it "an attempt to smear my reputation and destroy my character."

"I don't want to leave politics with an accusation of theft and embezzlement remaining," Casey later told the Truro Daily News.

"This RCMP report says that they did not have sufficient grounds to go further, but when you say you don't have sufficient grounds it insinuates there are some grounds and there are no grounds," the 63-year-old Brookdale, Cumberland Co., resident said.

**TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA**

### CFB Trenton Repatriation



Family members place flowers on the casket of Sapper Sean Greenfield yesterday at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, Ont. Arriving home today, Greenfield, from 2 Combat Engineer Regiment based at CFB Petawawa, Ont., was killed in Afghanistan on Jan. 31 when his armoured vehicle struck a roadside bomb.

### News in brief

**UN** Canada should strengthen its domestic violence laws and stop religious discrimination against Muslims, a UN body heard yesterday. Germany, Russia and China are among the other countries facing a review this month, under a process that is meant to ensure all UN members are held to account for their rights records.

**DEATHS** Montreal's mayor promised to do everything possible to ensure the safety of pedestrians after three elderly people were killed within hours of each other in two accidents with snow removal trucks yesterday in the city. Both accidents involved trucks that were contracted by the city.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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The decapitated body of a Kenyan journalist has been found in a forest, Reporters Without Borders said yesterday. The body of Francis Kainda Nyaruri, a freelancer based in the town of Nyamira, was found with deep gashes and tied hands on Jan. 29. **REUTERS**

# World



## Pay what you can in London

A London restaurant has decided to do away with bills for the next month, asking customers to pay only what they want for meals in an unorthodox bid to beat the credit crunch. The Little Bay restaurant in central London will present diners with nothing when they ask for the cheque during February, leaving it up to them to decide what the meal was worth. **REUTERS**

## Life support to be cut

Father of woman defies Italian government

**The father of an Italian woman who has been in a coma for 17 years defied the Vatican and Italy's centre-right government yesterday, moving her to a private clinic where a feeding tube keeping her alive will be removed.**

Eluana Englaro, 38, has been in a vegetative state since a 1992 car crash. Italy's top court ruled last year that she can be allowed to die but the decision was contested by politicians and split public

opinion in the mainly Catholic country.



Eluana Englaro

Early yesterday, the woman was taken by ambulance to a hospice in the northern city of Udine, the only one in Italy that has agreed to stop feeding her.

The government says

that removing the feeding tube amounts to euthanasia, which is illegal.

Eluana's father, Beppino Englaro, has battled his way through Italy's courts for more than 10 years to allow his daughter to die.

In November, the country's top court ruled in his favour, rejecting an appeal against a previous ruling by a lower tribunal, which, for the first time in Italy, had allowed him to disconnect the feeding tube. **REUTERS**

### News in brief

**AUSTRIA** A woman has begun a 500-day jail sentence for ignoring parking tickets and failing to pay a fine of around 24,000 euros (\$38,517). Police said the 38-year-old from the

southern city of Graz was jailed after ignoring 700 attempts by authorities to notify her of the fines over a two-year period.

**GAZA** Israeli aircraft bombed targets in Gaza after dark yes-

terday in response to a rocket attack, which hit the Israeli city of Ashkelon earlier in the day, damaging cars. There were no immediate reports of casualties. **REUTERS**

## Colombia Seven years' captivity



Politician Alan Jara waves as his son Felipe and wife Claudia flank him at Villavicencio airport. A Red Cross team flew by helicopter to Colombia's jungles yesterday to retrieve Jara, who was held hostage for seven years by FARC rebels, in a second release this week by Latin America's oldest insurgency. Rebels freed three police officers and a soldier on Sunday. **REUTERS**

## Pope falling out of favour in Germany

**HOLOCAUST** Nearly four years after a rare outburst of national pride over the election of a German pope, Germans are falling out of love with Pope Benedict because of his rehabilitation of a bishop who denies the Holocaust.

Prominent Catholics, politicians and newspaper commentators in Joseph Ratzinger's homeland are pulling no punches in their criticism of his lifting of the excommunications of four bishops, including one who denies the extent of the Holocaust.

In a rare move, even Chancellor Angela Merkel criticized him. "It is a fundamental question if, through a decision by the Vatican, the impression arises that the Holocaust can be denied," she said, adding she wanted the pope to issue a clarification. **REUTERS**

## China denounces shoe-throwing protest

**CAMBRIDGE** China protested to Britain yesterday over a demonstrator who threw a shoe at Prime Minister Wen Jiabao at Britain's Cambridge University, but said ties would not be strained.

British police said the protester, who denounced Wen as a dictator during Monday's incident, has been charged with a public order offence.

"The facts demonstrate

that the despicable conduct of this troublemaker will win no sympathy, and will not hold back the tide of friendly co-operation between China and Britain," China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The incident, in which a protester shouted at Wen and threw a shoe at him, interrupted a speech Wen gave at Cambridge. The shoe missed Wen and land-

### Tour of Europe

• Wen Jiabao's tour of Europe also took him to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Germany, Spain and European Union HQ in Brussels. The global economic crisis topped the agenda on Wen's week-long visit.

ed onstage, about a metre away from him. **REUTERS**

**HALIFAX RAINMEN**

**VS**

**Vermont Frost Heaves**

**Halifax Metro Centre**

**Kids Kick It with the Rainmen**

**HRM Kids Day**

**Sunday, Feb. 8**

**4:00 p.m.**

**\$5 child tickets**

Age 17 and under; child must be accompanied by an adult  
\$5 tickets available at Ticket Atlantic's Metro Centre Box Office location only

**For tickets**  
**451-1221**

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

**www.rainmenbasketball.ca**



**PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS**  
**BAYERS ROAD / HIGHWAY 102 /**  
**HIGHWAY 107 CORRIDOR STUDY**



The Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) and Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) are exploring the future best use of the Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor from Windsor Street, Halifax to Fall River. The study includes traffic projections and functional designs that could be implemented in stages over a 30-year period. The location of the proposed Highway 107 from Akerley Blvd in Burnside to Highway 102 near Duke Street (Exit 4C) has also been updated and evaluated. The study was conducted by Stantec Consulting on behalf of NSTIR and HRM. Two public information sessions will be held to present the findings of the study and the functional design of the roadways and interchanges:

#### • Wednesday, February 11, 2009

at the St. Andrew's Centre, 6955 Bayer's Road, Halifax, from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

#### • Thursday, February 12, 2009

at the LeBrun Community Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford from 6pm to 9pm with a presentation at 6:30pm.

NSTIR, HRM and Consultant staff will be in attendance at the public information sessions to discuss the study and answer questions. If you have questions regarding the upcoming sessions, please contact Bernadette Landry, P. Eng at 434-7331 or by e-mail at bernadette.landry@stantec.com.



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# Comment & Views

## Comment

# Budgeting backwards

Stimulus lacks investment where most women work

## NoBorders

**Deborah Coyne**

dmr.coyne@rogers.com



As the dust settles after the much-anticipated delivery of budget 2009, one troubling feature is emerging: Despite the fact that women constitute 47.4 per cent — almost half — of the national workforce, the vast majority of the billions of stimulus dollars targeted for job creation favours men. And the margin is huge — whether in housing, construction, forestry, autos or manufacturing.

But it's not just women who should be concerned: By failing to address the worst economic crisis in decades within a fair and equitable framework, the budget illustrates a serious lack of forward-thinking at a time when we need to restructure the Canadian

economy around industries based on innovative technological advances and our vibrant service sectors — major employers of women.

Budget 2009 has been called everything from "historic" to "inadequate" to "excessive" to "the end of conservatism." It is none of these things. It is vintage Stephen Harper: A mish-mash of mainly short-term job creation and credit-easing initiatives aimed at holding onto power and responding to the most basic expectations of frustrated Canadians who most certainly did not want an election or a repetition of the pre-Christmas hysterics.

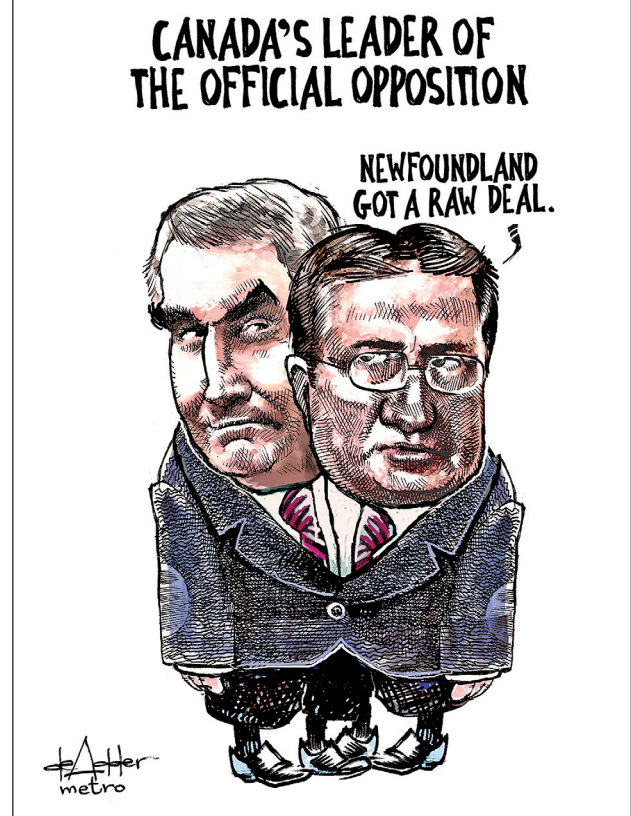
To the extent the budget even considers the future, it does so through a rearview mirror: Short-

sightedly subsidizing — rather than transforming — declining sectors like the auto industry; failing to adequately adapt Employment Insurance and other social security provisions to the current challenging environment; and concentrating the stimulus spending primarily on physical infrastructure, however important.

Yet our social infrastructure — underpinning our all-important service sector where the vast majority of women (and Canadians) work — requires just as much attention as our decaying physical infrastructure. At a minimum, significant new long-term public investment is required in scientific innovation and basic research, in education at all levels, in child care, geriatric care, community and social services. This will go far to support our most important national asset — our human capital — and ensure that we pull out of this crisis with a greener, more sustainable economy, and an educated, more productive workforce employed in 21st-century industries. Moreover, investing in women is smart economics according to participants at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, from Nike's chief executive, to the head of UNICEF, to Melinda Gates. This holds true as much for developed countries like Canada as it does for developing countries.

Let us hope the women of Canada, who represent not only half the workforce but also half of the electorate, remember the inadequacies of this budget and this government, at the next election.

Deborah Coyne is a public policy consultant who blogs at [canadianswithoutborders.blogspot.com](http://canadianswithoutborders.blogspot.com). She also ran as a Liberal candidate in the 2006 federal election.



## Worth mentioning

# Study shows offspring can inherit mother's experience

Mothers can pass along their experiences to their children without even trying, reported a study that showed baby mice could inherit the benefits of "education" their mothers received before becoming pregnant. The study showed inheritance can go beyond classic genetic theories. Researchers found young mice raised in an enriched environment — with toys and other stimulation — passed the learning benefits to pups they had after they grew up. The

stimulated mothers did not simply have better parenting skills, as pups swapped at birth still learned better if their biological mothers — but not foster parents — were raised with extra toys. "This is a protective mechanism a mother passes on to her offspring," said Larry Feig, who helped lead the study. "The mother is changed for months. Her brain is changed so that when she is old enough to get pregnant, the effect is still there." **REUTERS**

## Word on the street: What gets you through winter?

**Vanessa Turner**

Age 20, Halifax

A: Tomato soup and Chapstick. Good movies, too — to get away from school.

**Cheryl MacDonald**

Age 24, Halifax

A: Hockey gets me through the winter, because it's my leisure time. And studying, because I have no choice.

**Andrew MacPhee**

Age 24, Halifax

A: Warm clothes, good food and good company. Mainly it's having something fun planned that you can look forward to later in the day.

**Abel Grrma**

Age 26, Toronto

A: Waiting for a bus is the hardest thing. It takes so long to get to a station.

**Sun-ae Oh**

Age 28, Vancouver

A: I go snowboarding on Grouse Mountain or Whistler, or catch a movie. There's not much to do in the city in the winter.

**Rob McNaughton**

Age 38, Ottawa

A: It's Canada. You can't do anything about it. You adapt.



## Quote of the Day

**"This shocking revelation ... provides compelling proof that social networking sites remain rife with sexual predators."**

— Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal after MySpace revealed it had barred 90,000 registered sex offenders from using the social networking site over two years. **REUTERS**

## Metro Online Poll Results

90% SAID YES

Should O Canada be mandatory in all elementary schools?

10% SAID NO

Weigh in on today's question at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: [halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.



# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Mutual funds off to rocky RRSP start

**INVESTING** The mutual fund industry may be off to a rocky start for the registered retirement savings plan season.

The Investment Funds Institute of Canada estimates that mutual fund sales were between \$660 million and \$1.16 billion in January.

The figures show that money market funds, short-term investments that investors typically hold for about 10 months, comprised the bulk of sales for January.

Investors, however, still seem to be pulling money out of long-term mutual funds, though at a slower rate than they have been in previous months.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Credit card debts weigh on issuers

Credit card losses could hit \$800M

**Amid fresh evidence cash-strapped Canadian consumers are taking longer to pay off their credit cards, another major financial institution has moved to tighten up its lending practices.**

Amex Bank of Canada told cardholders that the rates of interest on some American Express cards will rise between one and three percentage points to as much as 21.99 per cent, effective Feb. 11. Amex blamed "substantially" increased costs of borrowing for the move, which follows leads by card issuers Canadian Tire and TD Bank.

The change comes as a new report by Deloitte &

Touche projects credit card losses in Canada could climb by as much as \$800 million this year if present trends continue.

Canadians' debt-to-disposable income ratio, now at 130 per cent, exceeds U.S. levels, a Deloitte partner noted, while the value of all outstanding card balances has climbed 40 per cent since 2004.

Meanwhile, a slowing economy and rising job losses mean more consumers are taking longer to pay off their debt, raising the risk of defaults to lenders when missed payments turn into delinquencies, the Deloitte rep said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Taiwan Praying for economic change



Workers place incense sticks after praying outside their company's building in Taipei yesterday, after going back to work following the Chinese New Year holidays. Taiwan will boost its economic stimulus program by up to 30 per cent to around \$4.75 billion Cdn as it tries to bring down a jobless rate that has climbed to a five-year high on the back of the economic crisis.

PCH CHANG/REUTERS

Government  
of CanadaGouvernement  
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## Registration of Canadians Abroad: New Upgraded System

### Why register?

So that we can contact and assist you in case of an emergency abroad or inform you of an emergency at home.

### Who should register?

All Canadians travelling or living abroad.

### What's different about the new system?

The improved system allows you to better manage and update your own information\* online.

### What if I've already registered?

If you registered before **December 14, 2008**, you **MUST** register again in order to receive further safety and security updates.

### How do I register?

You can register online at **www.travel.gc.ca/register** or by contacting a Canadian government office abroad.

For more information, call

**1-800-267-6788** (in Canada and the U.S.), **1-800-394-3472** (TTY), or **613-944-6788**.

\*Information obtained through registration is confidential and is used in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

## GM plant to close as sales plunge?

**AUTOS** Gloomy sales numbers at General Motors Corp. could lead to the closure of its Oshawa, Ont., plant, a senior union official suggested, as the company's sales plunged 46.6 per cent to 14,254 last month — a 20-year low.

Chris Buckley, president of Canadian Auto Workers Local 222 of Oshawa, said GM could close its remaining Canadian operations if workers don't accept concessions soon. GM declined to comment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Nuke unions back French-built plant

**NUCLEAR** Two unions representing builders and power-system professionals in Ontario say they would be equally happy if French giant Areva SA was selected to build a new nuclear plant in the province, citing the need to protect Canadian jobs. The unions had favoured Canada's AECL Candu technology.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

### Cruise activity up:

The Atlantic Canada Cruise Association says the industry had a record year in 2008, with visits up 35 percent to 814,000 passengers, and direct spending up 33 percent to \$40 million.

### Aviation program funds:

The Department of Labour and Workforce and Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) will provide a one-time program development fund of \$360,000 for a 10-month aircraft maintenance certificate program at NSCC.

### Equalization pay on way:

Ottawa gave Nova Scotia written assurance it will receive its entire share of equalization payments this year, after changes to the program left N.S. short about \$74 million.

Get the full stories delivered to your inbox every morning.

Sign-up today for the  
**DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ**  
**nsbj.ca**

## Business in brief

**TAKEOVER** Research in Motion has resumed its efforts to acquire encryption technology maker Certicom, with a sweetened \$3 a share offer, double its initial bid — a value of \$310 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**LICENSING** Shares of toymaker Mega Brands doubled yesterday after it signed a global licensing agreement with Microsoft Game Studios to make construction toys for its Halo Wars video game. **REUTERS**



**Super Bowl ratings up in States, down in Canada**

Nielsen Media Research said 98.7 million Americans, on average, were watching Pittsburgh's 27-23 Super Bowl victory Sunday night. That beats the 97.5 million who watched the 2008 game. In Canada, CTV carried the game and attracted an average audience of 3.6 million viewers, which was down from the 4.167 million who tuned in for the 2008 game. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

# Sports

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA



## Phelps pot charge possible

U.S. Olympic swimming hero Michael Phelps, left, could face criminal charges as part of the fallout from a November photograph showing him smoking from a marijuana pipe at a University of South Carolina house party. A spokesman for Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, known for his tough stance on drugs, said yesterday the department was investigating. Phelps apologized for his actions Monday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Habs double up Penguins at home

## Sanders player of the week

**PBL** Halifax Rainmen forward Rob Sanders was named Premier Basketball League player of the week yesterday after dominating performances in three straight games. The 6-8 forward averaged 22.3 points, 12.3 rebounds and shot 57.5 per cent from the field last week. Sanders has been virtually unstoppable in nine games.

Despite coming off the bench, he leads the team in points (19.3 per game) and rebounds (11.0).

## Lindros out as ombudsman

**NHL** The NHL Players Association refused to say why publicly, but its high-profile ombudsman is no longer in office. Eric Lindros "has resigned" from his position, an NHLPA release said yesterday. A source told Metro last month that he and his fellow executives were unhappy with Lindros.

## Tillman charged with sex assault

**CFL** Saskatchewan Roughriders general manager Eric Tillman has been put on leave while he faces a charge of sexual assault. Saskatchewan police say their charge against Tillman stems from an alleged encounter with a 16-year-old girl last summer in Regina.

Tillman, 51, was arrested Jan. 27. Tillman had previously served as GM of the B.C. Lions and Toronto Argonauts. He also worked as a television analyst with TSN and Rogers Sportsnet.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## SCOREBOARD

### NHL

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Florida 4 Toronto 3 (OT)  
Los Angeles 1 Ottawa 0  
Montreal 4 Pittsburgh 2  
N.Y. Islanders 3 Tampa Bay 1  
St. Louis 4 Columbus 2  
Washington 5 New Jersey 2  
Atlanta at N.Y. Rangers  
Phoenix at Nashville  
Calgary at Dallas  
Chicago at Edmonton  
Carolina at Vancouver

### NBA

#### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cleveland 101 Toronto 83  
Boston 100 Philadelphia 99  
Minnesota 116 Indiana 111  
New Jersey 99 Milwaukee 85  
Chicago at Houston  
San Antonio at Denver

### NHL RESULT

Penguins 2 Canadiens 4



**Roman Hamrik registered a goal and an assist, leading the Canadiens to a 4-2 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins last night in Montreal.**

Christopher Higgins and Maxim Lapierre also scored for the Canadiens, who have won two of their last three games. Carey Price made 23 saves to earn his 18th win of the season.

"It was a huge two points," said Montreal team captain Saku Koivu.

Luca Caputi notched a goal in his NHL debut for the Penguins, who have lost three in a row and four of five overall.

Evgeni Malkin added a



Cole Harbour's Sidney Crosby trips over the Canadiens' Andrei Kostitsyn last night.

power-play tally while Marc-Andre Fleury surrendered four goals on 35 shots in defeat.

"Our guys looked really, really slow tonight," said Pittsburgh head coach Michel Therrien. "We can't

give up four goals on the road. We needed to score more than two, and you need more desperation

METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Odds not in the Cards next year

Only a remarkable touchdown catch with 35 seconds remaining prevented them from winning the Super Bowl Sunday, but the Arizona Cardinals still haven't impressed the oddsmakers.

In fact, 17 NFL teams are being favoured ahead of the Cards for next season's championship.

The 2010 Super Bowl odds, released yesterday, list the Cards as 30-to-1 longshots. The New England Patriots, at 8-to-1, are favoured to prevail, followed by the Dallas Cowboys, at 9-to-1. Then come the new champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, and their Super Bowl-winning predecessors, the New York Giants — both at 10-to-1.

They're followed by the Indianapolis Colts and San Diego Chargers (12-to-1), Baltimore Ravens (14-to-1), Tennessee Titans (16-to-1), Carolina Panthers and Philadelphia Eagles (18-to-1), New Orleans Saints (20-to-1), and the Atlanta Falcons, Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings, Denver Broncos, Jacksonville Jaguars and New York Jets (all at 25-to-1).

• The Cards may com-

## YorkReport

**Marty York**

marty.york@metronews.ca



mand more respect if the oddsmakers were sure 37-year-old quarterback Kurt Warner would re-sign with them. He's a free agent, humming and hawing about returning to Arizona, but wife Brenda Warner has publicly encouraged him to retire to devote himself to their seven children and strong Christian faith ... NBC showed Brenda four times during Sunday's broadcast, incidentally, so you won the prop bet if you wagered on over the 3.5 ... **Santonio Holmes**, who made the aforementioned TD catch (in triple coverage) for the Steelers' last-minute triumph and was chosen the game's MVP, received a new Cadillac, although financially troubled General Motors asked the NFL to refrain from publicizing the gift ... Holmes needs to brush up on his football lore. Twice, he referred the Super Bowl trophy, named after legendary

NFL coach **Vince Lombardi**, as the "Dickie Lombardi" trophy.

• We reported here in December that **Eric Lindros**' days as ombudsman of the NHLPA were numbered because of complaints about his behaviour and his work (or lack of same) — and, yesterday, the players association officially announced his departure as "a resignation" ... there's trouble, too, in Vancouver — in-fighting, finger-pointing, second-guessing (like, why sign **Mats Sundin** for zillions?) — and don't be surprised if Canucks coach **Alain Vigneault** soon becomes the fall guy, just as **Craig Hartsburg** was when fired by Ottawa Monday ... puzzling me equally these days: **Bryan Murray** staying on as Senators general manager while good hockey men (**John Muckler**, **John Paddock**, **Hartsburg**) are turned into scapegoats, **Craig MacTavish** sticking around as coach of the underachieving Edmonton Oilers, and the Toronto Argonauts hiring a bunch of new coaches with virtually no CFL experience.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

## NBA Raptors lose road game



The Cavaliers' LeBron James grabs a rebound over Toronto's Chris Bosh last night. Cleveland clobbered the Raptors 101-83, handing Toronto its third straight loss.



# Metro Drive

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

## The puppy's here

Auto dealers and media experts have joined forces to launch a new used-car website, [autohound.ca](http://autohound.ca). The site focuses exclusively on pre-owned vehicle buyers, and includes video tours and pictures of vehicles, easier search tools, warranty information and condition reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Aveo5 economical choice

### Frugal Chevy hatchback doesn't skimp out on style

JIM KERR  
for Metro Canada

The 2009 Chevy Aveo5.

The 2009 Aveo (sedan) and Aveo5 (five-door hatchback) have a new exterior design, with swoopy body lines cutting across the body. I prefer the hatchback with its squared off back end and larger cargo space. Compact outside, with only a 3,938 mm overall length, there is good room inside for four large adults and cargo. The 60/40 split rear seat folds and tumbles forward to provide 1190 litres of cargo room, which is practical and useful.

Outside, the new front end shows the Chevy family resemblance similar to the new Malibu, with a smaller grille above the bumper and a large air intake below the bumper. Large lights front and rear stand out on the Aveo5 and the front fog lights add a sporty touch. The small grilles on the front fenders just in front of the doors look like an afterthought but seem to be the "in thing" with many new vehicles.

Inside, the two-tone cloth seats look nice and fit me well. The same cloth is used as inserts on the door pan-

els and it is a nice touch in a price range where you would expect all plastic.

The interior styling is new, with bright trim on the doors, dash and steering wheel that complement each other. The round gauges are large and easy to read, and our car came with air conditioning and an optional automatic transmission. A five-speed manual gearbox is standard equipment. Above the driver's door, there is a spring-loaded case for handy ac-

cess to those sunglasses.

The Aveo5 is available in LS and LT trim. We tested the upper LT trim level. The corporate GM radio fits nicely into the dash and our car had optional XM satellite radio as well as GM's OnStar (standard on LT models). Other new features include variable intermittent wipers and oil life monitoring system, so you can save some maintenance money by getting oil changes only when needed.

The seating position is

good for even a tall driver and visibility is good in all directions.

The car's small size makes it easy to slip into tight parking spots. The steering is light and responsive and the low 1,160 kg weight of the car helps with the handling. Fifteen-inch tires are optional, as are alloy wheels, but our car came with 14-inch tires and steel wheels with hubcaps to keep costs down.

An all new 1.6 litre Ecotec four cylinder engine powers

the '09 Aveo models. With variable valve timing, the engine puts out 105 horsepower.

This number isn't large, but it moves the Aveo5 smartly away from a stop or when passing on the highway. You don't need as much horsepower if you can keep the weight down. Fuel economy is also excellent, with up to a 10 per cent improvement from last year's model. It is now rated at 5.8 L/100 km on the highway.

You can dress the Aveo5



Inside, the Aveo5 sports new styling, with bright trim on the doors, dash and steering wheel that complement each other.

### 2009 Chevrolet Aveo5

**Type:** Compact hatchback

**Price:** from \$13,770

**Engine:** 1.6 litre DOHC I-4

**HP:** 106 at 6400 rpm

**Torque:** 105 lb.ft. at 3600 rpm

### Highlights

- Good value for money
- Improved fuel economy
- Compact but roomy design

up with options such as rear spoiler or sunroof, or you can stay with the base model for minimum cost. The base MSRP for the Aveo5 is \$13,770. That makes for very economical transportation and it has a three-year warranty, so you can say goodbye to costly repairs.

### AutoPilot

**Michael Goetz**

Read at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

## Porsche to launch new 911 GT3

**DEBUT** Porsche is gearing up for the launch of its "most powerful, fastest and most refined 911 GT3 ever" at the Geneva Motor Show next month.

The 2010 911 GT3 has an increased engine capacity to 3.8 litres and the naturally-aspirated six-cylinder power unit develops 435

bhp, up 20 bhp over its predecessor.

The boxer engine also offers a significant increase in torque at medium engine speeds, which is particularly significant in everyday motoring.

Performance is accordingly improved; the new GT3 accelerates to 100 km/h in

4.1 seconds and reaches 160 km/h in just 8.2 seconds. Top track speed is 312 km/h.

The car's driving dynamics are also significantly improved; the new GT3 offers even better grip and stability.

Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM)

has enabled Porsche's engineers to make the springs and anti-roll

bars stiffer, thus ensuring even more precise handling in sport mode, while retaining appropriate

roll comfort suitable for everyday use in normal mode.

The 2010 Porsche 911

GT3 goes on sale in Canadian dealerships in October. Pricing starts at \$138,100.



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# Travel



## Happy 500th

This year is the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne and Windsor Castle — where the king and his third and favourite wife, Jane Seymour, are buried — will mark the occasion with a special exhibit in April. It will include works by the king's painter, Hans Holbein the Younger, and other paintings, miniatures, prints and books from the royal collection and the archives of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. See [royalcollection.org.uk](http://royalcollection.org.uk).

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

# Romance done right

Paris is undoubtedly magical, but with a bit of planning, your getaway will be perfect

EMMA E. FORREST  
Metro World News

It's no secret that Paris is one of the planet's most romantic spots. But while the city's magical ambience can work wonders, it never hurts to give romance a helping hand. Here are suggestions for planning your perfect getaway à deux:

### Designer in Beaubourg

Right in the heart of the city, Beaubourg is the area around the famous Pompidou cultural centre. It's strolling distance from the major sights along the Rue de Rivoli; the romantic alleys of the Marais area with its boutiques and trendy, cosy cafés; the fabulous restaurants of the Étienne Marcel area; and the mainstream stores at Les Halles and the majestic department stores Printemps and Galeries Lafayette on the Grand Boulevards.

**Where to stay:** A Great Apartment in Paris, a unique studio apartment lovingly furnished with designer lamps, organic bedlinen, handcrafted tiles, flat-screen TV and beautiful window box gives you a taste of Parisian life. From about \$125 per night; visit [great-apartment-paris.com](http://great-apartment-paris.com).

**Romantic dinner:** Restaurant Georges, the utterly chic restaurant on the top floor of the Centre Pompidou, with fabulous views over the city from the terrace; [centrepompidou.fr](http://centrepompidou.fr).

**Where to propose:** The sumptuous Philippe Starck-designed Cristal Rooms restaurant at the "hotel particulier" dedicated to prestigious crystalware manufacturers, Baccarat; [baccarat.com](http://baccarat.com).

### Absolute classic Paris

For the ultimate wow factor, spend a weekend at the Hotel de Crillon at Place de la Concorde, the huge square flanked by four key sights — the Seine to the south, the Champs Élysées to the west, the romantic Jardin des Tuileries on its east side and the grand opera house a block north.

Go shopping in the high-fashion boutiques along rue St. Honoré and hip designer department store Colette. Stroll through the Tuileries to an exhibition at the Louvre and pause for a coffee in the formal gardens of the intimate Jardins du Palais Royal. Reward yourself with mouth-watering Ladurée macaroons from their shop on Place de la Madeleine; [laduree.fr](http://laduree.fr).

**Where to stay:** Treat your lover like royalty with a stay at the luxurious Hotel de Crillon, the most majestic hotel in the city, overlooking the breathtaking Place de la Concorde, with views over the city to the river and the Eiffel Tower. From about \$1,220; [crillon.com](http://crillon.com).

**Romantic dinner:** If you've splashed out for the Crillon, go the whole way and stay for the memorable dinner



HOTEL DE CRILLON

Above left, a reflection of the Louis XV room at the Hotel de Crillon. Right, the Cristal Rooms are a perfect spot to propose.

experience at Les Ambassadeurs, the hotel's two-Michelin-starred restaurant. Despite being so posh they even give you a stool for your handbag, there's a friendly atmosphere to match the sophisticated but imaginative dishes, served in various playful ways. From about \$475 per person. **Where to propose:** Pont Alexandre III, one of the most ornate bridges over the Seine.

### Intellectual on the Left Bank

An obvious choice here is a walk around the stunning gardens at Jardins de Luxembourg. Stop for a coffee and watch the entertainment, then walk all the way along the famous Boulevard St. Germain, taking in typically Parisian stores including luxury candle makers Dyptique. At

## Valentine's Day

the other end you'll find the city's beautiful botanical gardens, the Jardin des Plantes.

**Where to stay:** Right opposite the famous Left Bank university, Hotel de la Sorbonne has stylish, cosy rooms with hip designer furniture and sumptuous fabrics in bright or sultry colours — the perfect setting for seduction. Each room has a Mac with unlimited free Internet, so you can set the musical mood or browse for places to go, although you don't even need to leave the hotel for that — each floor hosts a different photo exhibition. From about \$158, discounts online, [hotelsorbonne.com](http://hotelsorbonne.com).

**Romantic dinner:** Cosy up in the romantic, classic at-

mosphere of Closerie des Lilas, a classic Paris restaurant once frequented by the likes of Hemingway; [closeriedeslilas.fr](http://closeriedeslilas.fr).

**Where to propose:** The secret gallery at the top of the cupola of the Pantheon.

### Arty in Montmartre

The artists and musicians who live in Montmartre rarely leave this so-called village. No surprise when you consider what's on offer here. Meander through the alleyways and climb up to the Sacre Coeur church at the Butte de Montmartre and take in amazing views across the city's rooftops.

Paris views don't get much more romantic than this. If you're feeling racy, you can visit the Musée de l'Érotique or catch one of the erotic cabarets in the evening at Moulin Rouge or further away at the Crazy

Horse — Dita Von Teese is guest starring this month.

**Where to stay:** Hotel Amour is a hip establishment set up by trendy graffiti artist André, and each room has been customized by a different cool young artist. A charming bistro on the ground floor has an outside courtyard complete with billowing bamboos; [hotelamour.com](http://hotelamour.com).

**Romantic dinner:** Make like a local and dine at hip Italian restaurant La Pizzetta. The food is delicious and seasonal, its sunny terrace a gem, and its 1960s Italian cinema inspired interior is very cool; [lapizzetta.fr](http://lapizzetta.fr).

**Place to propose:** The pretty courtyard garden of the Musée de la Vie Romantique — a museum dedicated to the romantic era, rather than romance itself; [vie-romantique.fr](http://vie-romantique.fr).



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## NYC400 celebrations

New York City is hosting a year-long celebration of special events, exhibits, outdoor activities and performances to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Henry Hudson aboard the Dutch vessel Halve Maen. NYC400 Week will be held from Sept. 8 to 13, 2009. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

travel **13**

# Foraging for dinner in B.C.

TheTravelJunkie

**Julia Dimon**

metronews.ca/traveljunkie



Gisele Martin, owner of Tla-ook Cultural Adventures, points out some fiddleheads on a grocery walk of B.C.'s Meares Island.

There's more to do in Tofino, B.C., then catch waves, whale watch and chill in the hot springs. Tla-ook Cultural Adventures offers a variety of tours, from black bear watching to wild salmon barbecues and sunset paddles to grocery walks on Meares Island.

Eager to find out about West Coast flora and fauna, I signed up for a trip to Meares Island. This four-hour excursion has tourists foraging for food and learning about edible roots, shoots and berries from a First Nations perspective.

Around these parts, the tides determine tourist activities. For this adventure, low tide is best, so before paddling through Clayoquot Sound in a traditional hand-carved canoe, my

## On the web

- For more information on Tla-ook Cultural Adventures visit [tlaook.com](http://tlaook.com)

guide Gisele Martin and I had to wait for

Once the tide was low enough, we headed out to Meares Island, home to Tofino's water source and a 10,000-year old forest. It's a rugged patch of coastal temporal rainforest that's

been left relatively untouched, except for a protective boardwalk called the Big Tree Trail. This path of wooden planks weaves through the old growth forest of massive western red cedar trees.

Once on the island, visitors are introduced to a variety of plants traditionally used by the First Nations people. Licorice root saved European sailors from scurvy, while skunk cabbage's fragrant flower was

helpful when cleaning and gutting fish.

Rooting through a patch of shrubbery, Gisele plucked a handful of fiddleheads. Eat these fronds raw and they can cause a vitamin C deficiency in your body, but fry them with a little butter and they're a perfect addition to any grilled cheese sandwich. "The forest is a grocery store," she explained. "There's tons of food but you just have to know where to look."

Many tourists have a hard time recognizing the subtle differences between plants and, while some are suitable for eating, others are poisonous. "The Banana slug is one thing you definitely shouldn't eat," Gisele explained. These slimy creatures aren't the least bit tasty and will even cause your lips to go numb. They are, however, excellent weathermen. If you spot them in the open air, basking on tree leaves, you're sure to know that rain is on the way.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on OLN; [juliadimon.com](http://juliadimon.com).

## Word Travels

- Catch the second season of Word Travels, a documentary series on the adventures of travel writers Julia Dimon and Robin Esrock. It airs Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on OLN.

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George Clooney isn't the only ER alum putting on those scrubs again. Original cast member Anthony Edwards tells Usmagazine.com that Julianna Margulies will likely return as well as the show films its final season. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

## Nickelback leads Junos

BRIAN TOWIE  
Metro Canada

### Nickelback is feeling the Juno love.

The Alberta rockers are on top with nominations for five Juno Awards, including the Juno fan choice award, single of the year for Gotta Be Somebody and album of the year for Dark Horse. The nominees for Canada's highest prize in music were announced at a press conference in Toronto yesterday. The winners will be announced at the 2009 Juno Awards, set to take place on March 29 in Vancouver and broadcast live on CTV.

Pickering, Ont., singer-songwriter Sarah Slean and members of The Stills and Saint Alvia were on-hand to unveil the contenders, along with comedian and last year's host Russell Peters, who was cracking jokes about the gala he returns to host this year.

"It's Vancouver. What can I say?" he said. "That's the city it's going to be in and Vancouver's one of those cities where you can pretty much have a good time without the Juno Awards. You add Junos into



### Nominations

• Notable local nominees include: **Feist** (Juno fan choice award); **Gordie Sampson** (songwriter of the year); **The**

**Trews** (group of the year)

• To see the complete list of Juno nominees go to [metronews.ca/music](http://metronews.ca/music)

that and the whores will be flying."

Performers at the show include Montreal pop-punks Simple Plan, Nickelback, City And Colour and Vancouver singer-songwriter Sarah McLachlan.

Other Canadian artists

were also tipped for multiple nominations. Montreal singer-songwriter Sam Roberts earned four nods, including artist of the year, rock album of the year for Love At The End Of The World, and two nominations for video of the year for Detroit '67 and Them Kids. Celine Dion has three nominations (Juno fan choice, single of the year for Taking Chances and

### Canada's Music Awards JUNO Awards



Comedian Russell Peters is back to host the 2009 Juno Awards. Meanwhile, City and Colour (Dallas Green), above, is scheduled to perform.

music DVD of the year for Live In Las Vegas — A New Day) along with Burnaby, B.C., rockers Hedley (Juno fan choice, album of the year for Famous Last Words and songwriter of the year).

"This year's extensive list of nominees reflects the sensational cross-section of musical talent from across our country," said Melanie Berry, president of The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS). "Canadian music is dominated by the highest quality musical standards and is renowned for its variety ... Nothing is more uniting than music. Music is the universal language."



### Oscar date

Anne Hathaway, nominated for an Academy Award for Rachel Getting Married, wants to make the Oscars a family affair. "I'm taking my dad," she said earlier this week. **PEOPLE.COM**



Actresses Drew Barrymore and Scarlett Johansson star in the new romantic comedy He's Just Not That Into You.

## The reality behind romantic comedy

ROBYN YOUNG  
for Metro Canada

### Valentine's Day

**It's the break of dawn and John Cusack, playing a fit teenage hunk wearing a trenchcoat and high tops, holds up a ghetto blaster, and blasts Peter Gabriel's In Your Eyes into the air and his crush's bedroom.**

This scene from Cameron Crowe's Say Anything is so romantic it immediately melted hearts across the continent; but it's also just a touch unrealistic. Any woman who's been waiting since 1989 for her knight in shining armour to come along and pull this stunt, might be waiting a very long time.

But, some experts warn romantic comedies can create unrealistic expectations for relationships.

Kateryna Spiwak, a Toronto-based dating coach, says flicks like this usually end up with the couple living "happily ever after" and suggest that no more work is required to maintain the relationship — that love conquers all.

"And that a couple in love won't encounter any problems in their relationship," she said.

There's also the suggestion that there's such thing as "the perfect man" — someone who will effortlessly meet all your needs simply by virtue of being with you, she said.

Referencing this Friday's movie release He's Just Not That Into You, based on bestselling self-help book of the same name, Spiwak said it's good for women (and men) to know some of the signs of a bad relationship, but it's also important to remember that every situation is different and not to follow anyone's "rules" too strictly. Just don't fall into the trap of thinking you're going to just find the "perfect" person and not have to work at it, she said.

Researchers at Heriot Watt University in Scotland had similar views on romantic comedies in a recent study that showed how "rom-coms" can spoil real-life relationships.

Echoing Spiwak's thoughts, Dr. Bjorne Holmes, director of research at the school's family and personal relationships lab, said people who watch romantic comedies are mistakenly led to believe that the "right" person will come along and know exactly what you want without having to ask.

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Jennifer Hudson made her first foray back into public life with an emotional performance of the National Anthem at the Super Bowl Sunday — and now she has signed on to sing at the 40th NAACP Image Awards on Feb 12. **PEOPLE.COM**

**First day back**

# Prom flashbacks at fundraiser



ABOVE: Tara Joosse and El Torpedo's Andy Patil at Neptune's Black & White fundraiser.



ABOVE: Rachel Gilpin and Erica Jeffery welcome guests to the Chinese New Year celebration.



LEFT: Yue Zhang holds one of the ten courses served at the Chinese New Year Celebration at the Dragon King Restaurant and RIGHT: Bing Xu and Yongmei Wang at the Mu Lan Chinese Cultural Centre's Chinese New Year Celebration.



LEFT: Television personality (and Trailer Park Boys' rapper) Jonathan Torrens with Carole MacLeod at the Neptune Theatre's Black & White fundraiser.

## HalifaxScene

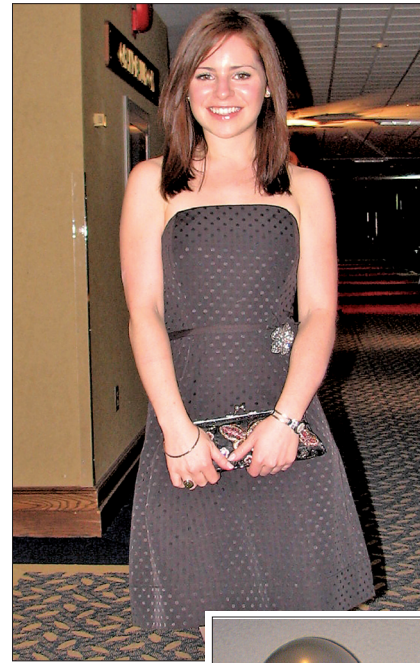
**Jamie Paterson**



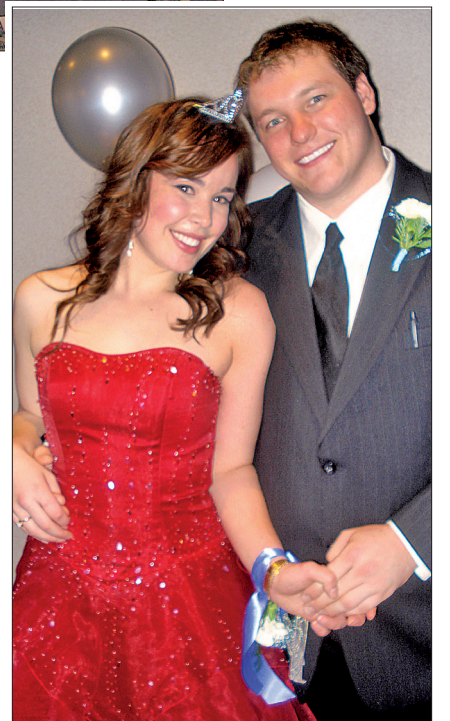
**IT WAS THE MEETING** of old and new this week, as Neptune Theatre gave folks the chance to relive their prom days. Chiffon and tuxedos were the order of the day at Black & White and Prom All Over, a fundraiser for student matinees and other programs.

The Mu Lan Chinese Cultural Centre ushered in the new year with a ten course authentic dinner at the Dragon King Restaurant. There were plenty of shrimp dumplings and Beijing duck to celebrate the Year of the Ox.

Finally, congratulations to developer Ben McCrea, who was named businessperson of the year at the Halifax Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner and awards show. O'Regans was named business of the year and Moxie Creative dubbed best new business. Standing ovations all around!



LEFT: Halifax Chamber of Commerce Event Coordinator Kristen Pickett backstage at the Business Person of the Year Awards.



RIGHT: Kelsey Crawford and Zack Macaulay at the Neptune Black & White and Prom all Over fundraiser.

# Inside the lives of the people that trim your locks

**RICK MCGINNIS**  
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca



**I grew up in a neighbourhood where women like my mother had their hair tuned up monthly in beauty parlours that were often in the front rooms of someone's house, and have vivid memories of squirming on the couch reading women's magazines, inhaling fumes from the hair dye and perm chemicals and trying to puzzle out the often tense, loaded dialogue passing between the hairdressers and customers.**

The staff and clientele at Vancouver's Chop Shop might sport tattoos and Mohawks, but the atmosphere is familiar enough, at least after viewing a couple of episodes of the eponymous reality TV series debuting tonight on Slice.

Chop Shop co-owner and de facto star of the series Daniel Hudon says that the producers began approaching him over two years ago with the show, and that he'd said no at first, before consenting to a pilot episode that he'd forgotten about until they came back with a series order from Slice.

"The type of people that we are," Hudon says, "I don't have cable and a lot of my staff don't have cable, so when you say 'reality TV show' it can be a dirty, filthy word, right? I just really wanted to make sure that we were representing what we believed in, on a business perspective especially."

Superficially, the series is modelled on "extreme workplace" shows like L.A. Ink or American Chopper, but in a larger sense it's part of an ongoing fascination TV viewers have with

**"I don't have cable and a lot of my staff don't have cable, so when you say 'reality TV show' it can be a dirty, filthy word, right? I just really wanted to make sure that we were representing what we believed in, on a business perspective especially."**

Daniel Hudon, Chop Shop co-owner

the relationships we're forced to have daily with people who aren't necessarily our family and friends, a trait shared by shows as different as The Office, Ugly Betty and Lost. Who hasn't, after all, felt as stranded at their job as they would on a desert island?

The dramas on Chop Shop are small but easy to grasp — the first two episodes of the show deal with the anxiety surrounding a new hiring at the close-knit shop, and the at-

tempts by stylists to get a date for the workaholic Hudon.

Director Ziad Touma says that his biggest challenge was getting the staff to trust him and his crew, and to relax around the cameras and microphones.

"Just imagine the narrowness of this shop," Touma says, "with the camera and the boom operator, following hairdressers who are already working elbow to elbow, with mirrors all around you can always see the



Daniel Hudon, co-owner of Chop Shop, was initially a rather hesitant subject for a reality TV show.

crew and me behind the camera, plus blow dryers and sinks and then clients."

"These are not actors, these are real hairdressers, and we were in their face for three or four days a week for six months, so you get to learn about

them and the relationships and dynamics, and when I'm at work or at a lunch break with one of them, it's really about fitting in.

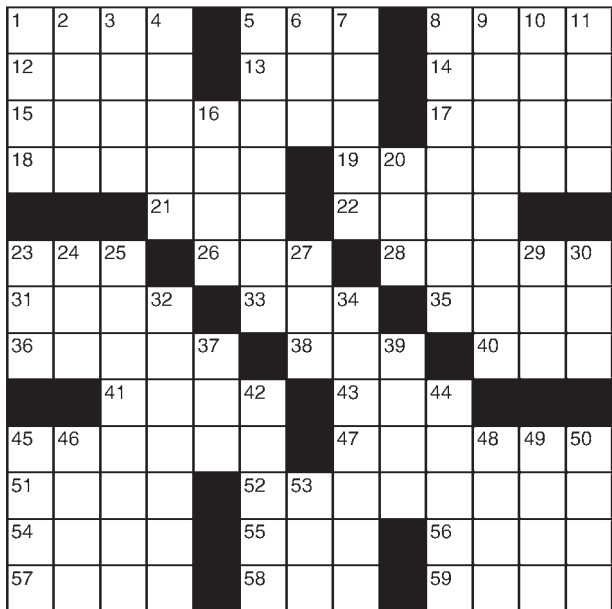
"I had to be a Chopper, and they could tell me anything, although they knew I might use it as a storyline."





For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

## Take Five



### Crossword across

- |                            |                              |                                   |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Pronto, on a memo        | 21 Mimic                     | 45 Garment with something to say? |
| 5 Section of L.A.? Fashion | 22 Riga resident             | 47 Realm                          |
| 8 Fashion                  | 23 Bachelor's last utterance | 51 Extended period?               |
| 12 — fide (in bad faith)   | 26 Doctrine                  | 52 Illegal football plays         |
| 13 Descartes' conclusion   | 28 Velveeta maker            | 54 Urban pall                     |
| 14 Out there someplace     | 31 Pompom                    | 55 Barack : Michelle : Herbert    |
| 15 Drilling site           | 33 Drunkard                  | : —                               |
| 17 Small salamanders       | 35 Fairy tale baddie         | 56 Bound                          |
| 18 A big-screen Batman     | 36 Parlour furniture         | 57 DIY buys                       |
| 19 Tenant                  | 38 Fella                     | 58 Wriggly one                    |
|                            | 40 Storm center              | 59 Kenny Rogers song              |
|                            | 41 Vail gear                 |                                   |
|                            | 43 Greek consonants          |                                   |

### Crossword down

- |                      |                        |                   |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Out of control     | 25 Collateral branch   | 49 Peruse         |
| 2 Secure             | 27 Unruly bunch        | 50 Catch sight of |
| 3 — Romeo            | 29 Sauté               | 53 Adversary      |
| 4 Trattoria offering | 30 Links prop          |                   |
| 5 Cub's mama         | 32 Receipts in Britain |                   |
| 6 Skull tool         | 34 Melodic             |                   |
| 7 Olfactory stimulus | 37 Round Table address |                   |
| 8 Baton waver        | 39 Vagrants            |                   |
| 9 In the wings       | 42 Pilfered            |                   |
| 10 Social engagement | 44 Drinker's mishap    |                   |
| 11 Gaelic            | 45 Agenda entry        |                   |
| 16 Arizona tribe     | 46 Big rig             |                   |
| 20 "A mouse!"        | 48 Concept             |                   |
| 23 "— Impossible"    |                        |                   |
| 24 Pair with an air  |                        |                   |

### PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	R	G	O	S	P	A	F	A	C	T
C	E	L	L	H	E	N	O	B	O	E
H	E	A	D	C	O	L	D	O	L	L
O	D	D	O	A	F	G	L	E	A	M
T	I	T	B	U	S					
B	R	A	W	N	M	O	N	G	R	E
A	U	D	I	G	A	B	O	U	R	S
S	T	O	C	K	E	D	B	L	E	E
E	E	L	B	A	D					
B	U	S	T	Y	F	O	R	L	E	I
I	N	T	O	T	O	O	K	H	O	L
E	T	A	L	O	U	T	A	P	S	E
L	O	R	D	W	R	Y	T	E	A	S

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<b>SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:</b>	17-21 min .....	Smart
Under 13 min .....	21-25 min .....	Not bad
13-17 min .....	25+ min .....	Keep practising

### Metro Recipe of the Day



### Sloppy Joes

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef  
1 onion, finely chopped  
1 celery stalk, finely chopped  
1 green pepper, seeded and finely chopped  
14 oz (398 ml) can chopped tomatoes  
1 tbsp (15 ml) chili sauce, or to taste  
2 tsp (10 ml) Worcestershire sauce  
2 tsp (10 ml) cider vinegar  
Freshly ground black pepper  
4 buns, split and toasted

#### COLESLAW:

1 large carrot, peeled and cut into matchsticks  
5 1/3 cups white cabbage, finely shredded  
1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) olive oil  
1 tbsp (15 ml) cider vinegar

#### METHOD:

1. Put meat in large non-stick frying pan over moderate heat and cook 4-5 minutes. Break up meat with wooden spatula.

When meat is no longer pink, add onion, celery and green pepper. Cook 5 minutes until vegetables are softened.  
2. Add tomatoes, chili sauce to taste, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar and black pepper. Cook 15-20 minutes, stirring often, until flavours are blended.  
3. Meanwhile, make coleslaw: Mix together carrot and cabbage in large bowl. Sprinkle with oil and vinegar and toss together.  
4. Put bottoms of toasted buns onto four plates and spoon meat mixture on top. Pile on coleslaw and cover with tops of buns. Serve immediately.

**SERVES 4**



## Horoscopes

### AVATAR VENUS

**ARIES**  
**MARCH 21-APRIL 20**  
Think of the consequences before getting involved in an argument. A perplexed person contacts you about their feelings.



**TAURUS**  
**APRIL 21-MAY 21**  
Heed a friend's distress and be ready to stand up for justice. Have cash handy for your generous impulses.



**GEMINI**  
**MAY 22-JUNE 21**  
Your finances need changing due to your new circumstances. A handshake is as good as a contract if you trust somebody.



**CANCER**  
**JUNE 22-JULY 22**  
Bless those who keep you out of trouble. Discuss your philosophy and tactics with your allies.



**LEO**  
**JULY 23-AUG 23**  
Pay attention to the rules and all will be well. You'll acknowledge the assistance of a loyal companion.



**VIRGO**  
**AUG 24-SEPT 22**  
Problems are resolved when you do things properly. Talking with authority figures will give you satisfaction.



**LIBRA**  
**SEPT 23-OCT 23**  
Elegant words can be stirring or completely hilarious. A serious person needs to get a sense of humour. A helpful man will make a special offer.



**SCORPIO**  
**OCT 24-NOV 22**  
Look for someone with a key to the knowledge that you seek. Think long and hard before refusing an invitation.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
**NOV 23-DEC 21**  
Maintain your dignity to teach somebody to show respect. Stay balanced when an icy cheerfulness masks a rivalry.



**CAPRICORN**  
**DEC 22-JAN 20**  
You have the strength of character to help someone. Excessive pride causes a buffoon to fall from grace.



**AQUARIUS**  
**JAN 21-FEB 18**  
Pleasure causes mayhem to erupt. Change patterns in your response to family members. You can reflect on someone's true nature.



**PISCES**  
**FEB 19-MARCH 20**  
A great project will come back to life after a hiatus. Unexpected events will keep you hopping.



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## WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Mightily jolts "The Simpsons" network (1)

2. Karate school magic charm (2)

3. Canny, straitlaced person (1)

4. Banana-y or apple-y pirate's plunder (2)

5. Plain, unadorned nun's headdress (2)

6. One who orderly piles up Saltines (2)

7. Michigan State team's egg boxes (2)

ANSWERS  
1. ROCKS FOX 2. DOJO MOJO 3. SHREWD PRUDE 4. FRUITY BOOTY  
5. SIMPLE WIMPLE 6. CRACKER STACKER 7. SPARTANS CARTONS

## This day in history

FEB. 4, 1703: In Edo (now Tokyo), 46 of the Forty-Seven Ronin commit seppuku (ritual suicide) as recompense for avenging their master's death.

FEB. 4, 1789: George Washington is unanimously elected to be the first President of the United States by the U.S. Electoral College.

FEB. 4, 1992: A Coup d'état is led by Hugo Chávez Frías, against Venezuelan President Carlos Andrés Pérez.

FEB. 4, 1997: After at first contesting the results, Serbian President Slobodan Milošević recognizes opposition victories in the November 1996 elections.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





Miley Cyrus says her mom's black Porsche — which she inherited around her 16th birthday — was driving her crazy. So she ditched it for a new set of wheels. "My dad surprised me last night with a black Prius," she said on her website Monday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

## Celebrity Buzz

### Mayer's blog hints at engagement

**RELATIONSHIPS** John Mayer has announced plans to propose to girlfriend Jennifer Aniston, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Gravity singer — who briefly split from the Friends actress last year after she became annoyed with him speaking publicly about their relationship — took to his Twitter blog over the weekend to confirm his intentions. On Friday he wrote: "Visiting the Diamond Exchange in Tustin." He then followed the comment up on Saturday with: "Welding an engagement ring for my girlfriend."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



### Kutcher comes to Phelps' defence

**PEOPLE** Ashton Kutcher is standing up for Michael Phelps after photos surfaced of the Olympian smoking marijuana, us-magazine.com reports.

"God forbid he hit a bong," Kutcher Twittered about the incident on Monday. "Go ask your 20-year-old kid what they did last weekend."

"I'm not saying it was a smart move. But he doesn't need to be publicly outed for it," Kutcher went on.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Bale's verbal rampage

**TEMPER** Don't cross Christian Bale, people.com reports.

At least that's the lesson learned by a crew member of The Dark Knight star's new movie, Terminator Salvation. Then again, don't cross your crew — because someone might be recording the entire expletive-laced rant you are delivering. And what you said might even end up on The Today Show, which is what happened Tuesday morning, when a visibly shocked Matt Lauer, Meredith Vieira and others

discussed Bale's scorching on-the-set rant — which came about after Terminator Salvation director of photography Shane Hurlbut accidentally entered Bale's sight-line during filming, the Los Angeles Times reports.

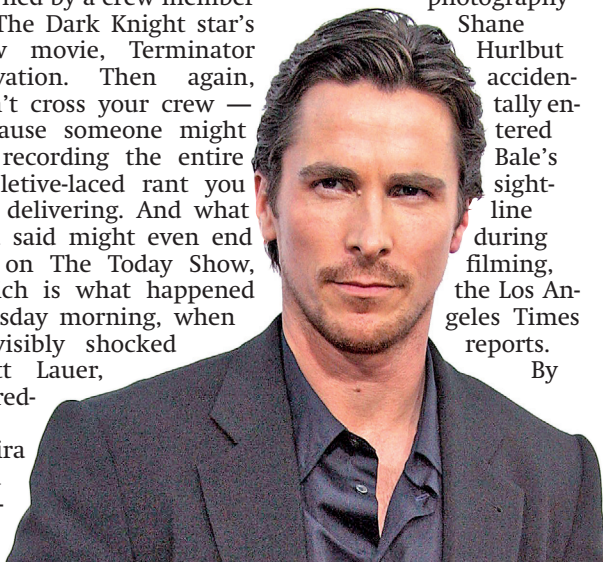
By

The Today Show's count, Bale, 35, dropped the F-bomb 36 times during his nearly four-minute verbal attack.

Contacted by People magazine on Monday, reps for Bale had no comment about the tape, which first surfaced on TMZ.com.

Bruce Franklin, an assistant director and associate producer on the Terminator film, called Bale's behaviour toward Hurlbut uncharacteristic for the star, whom Franklin told E! News was a "consummate professional." As for the incident, "It was just a moment and it passed."

To hear Bale's rant, visit this article online at metronews.ca/celebrity-buzz. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Madonna nabs boytoy Jesus

**RELATIONSHIPS** Madonna has reportedly introduced her Brazilian model lover Jesus Luz to her children, femalefirst.co.uk is saying.

The singer was spotted dining with the 22-year-old hunk in New York's Macelleria Italian Steakhouse over the weekend along with two of her children — Lourdes, 12, and adopted David, three.

A source said: "The chemistry was fizzing between Madonna and Jesus and Lourdes seemed interested to get to know him."

After the meal, Madonna took Lourdes and David shopping, and Lourdes —

the singer's daughter from a previous relationship with fitness trainer Carlos Leon — was seen trying on several designer items of clothing.

Madonna, 50, met Jesus in December when they were paired up for a photo shoot for U.S. fashion magazine W.

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Halle's boyfriend promises more kids

**FAMILY** She may be their only child for now, but Halle Berry and Gabriel Aubry's daughter, Nahla Ariela, will be getting a brother or sister — if the proud papa

gets his way, people.com reports.

"She needs a sibling," Aubry told People magazine. "I think it's important," adds Aubry, who

comes from a family of eight children. And what does Berry, 42, think of his plans to expand the family? "She's okay with it," he says. "Absolutely."

**METRO NEWS SERVICES**



## Brit's kids on tour

**FAMILY** It's off to the circus for Britney Spears' children, people.com reports.

The pop star took to her blog Monday to knock down a report that her upcoming two-month tour was in trouble because of a snag over whether she could travel with her two boys.

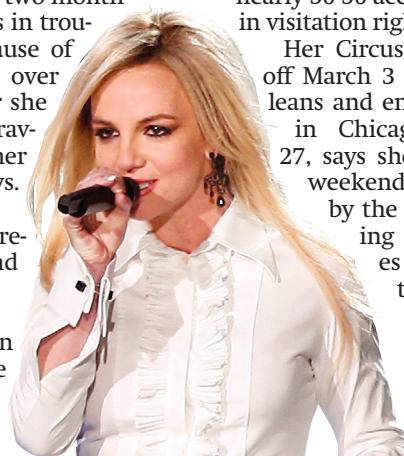
"Both Sean Preston and Jayden James will, in fact, be joining Britney

throughout the duration of her tour," says Spears' blog.

Spears' ex, Kevin Federline, 30, has primary custody of the boys, ages three and two, but Spears has nearly 50-50 access to them in visitation rights.

Her Circus tour kicks off March 3 in New Orleans and ends April 28 in Chicago. Spears, 27, says she spent the weekend lounging by the pool checking out sketches of costumes.

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## Amy moving to Jamaica

**LIFESTYLE** Amy Winehouse is moving to Jamaica, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Rehab singer — who has been staying in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia since December to overcome her drug problems — wants to avoid "bad influences" in London and record her long-awaited third album in Jamaica, the home of late reggae leg-

end Bob Marley.

A source said: "Amy is having the time of her life in St. Lucia and doesn't want it to end. She's looking and feeling so much better and is worried about the bad influences waiting for her back in London. She's written a big chunk of her new album and has told bosses she wants to go to Jamaica to record it."

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## Jolie peeved over Pitt party?

**RELATIONSHIPS** Angelina Jolie "hit the roof" when partner Brad Pitt embarked on a series of wild nights out recently, femalefirst.co.uk alleges.

The website says that Pitt, 45, reportedly decided to spend an evening partying after the recent Berlin premiere of new movie The Curi-

ous Case of Benjamin Button, much to the irritation of The Changeling actress.

In Touch Weekly magazine reports Pitt's glass was "always half full" during the evening, and he was often heard drunkenly exclaiming: "Wow! The Germans make the best beer in the world! One more, please!"

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